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Brian R Naranjo 03/22/2002 01:44:48 PM From DB/Inbox: Brian R Naranjo

Cable Text:
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TELEGRAM

March 22, 2002

To: SECSTATE WASHDC - ROUTINE
Action: EB
From: AMEMBASSY CARACAS (CARACAS 761 - ROUTINE)
TAGS: EPET, ECON, CU, VE
Captions: None
Subject: CUBA GETS YET ANOTHER BENEFIT FROM VENEZUELA
Ref: None

Chen R
RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)

1. Classified by Ambassador Charles S. Shapiro; reason 1.5 (B) and (D).
2. (U) Venezuela's Official Gazette No. 37.398, dated March 6, republished an amended Decree Number 1.429, first signed in August 2001, exonerating Cuban goods and services imported under the auspices of the Venezuela-Cuba Cooperation Agreement (Convenio Integral de Cooperacion) from taxes. The terms of the Agreement, signed in October 2000, were amended in August 2001 to change what had been envisioned as a barter arrangement between the two countries to payment on a cash basis.
3. (U) In its preamble language, the Decree notes that the Venezuelan state has assumed the responsibility of guaranteeing access to goods and services to improve the quality of life. It goes on to say that the Ministry of Health and Social Development has been given the financial resources with which to assume the payment of the VAT tax, import duties, as well as the customs service charge for these goods. While the Decree is clearly aimed primarily at medical goods and services (and includes a list of such goods including a list of medicines), its language is so broad that we believe virtually any Cuban import could be covered.

SHAPIRO

Additional Addressees:
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 12 JUN 2006 200304421

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